Loan to power grid corporation of India Ltd.

*292. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has approached the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for a total loan of $ 3.2 billion, to finance the ambitious Rs.70,000 crore national grid project;

(b) if so, whether any agreement with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in this regard has been worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has planned to raise multi-lateral loan assistance of about US$ 3 billion (Rs. 12,500 crore) from the World Bank (US$ 2 billion - Rs. 8,350 crore) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) (US$ 1 billion Rs. 4150 crore) to fund various projects during the Eleventh Plan. The loans are proposed to be availed in tranches.

Out of the US$ 2 billion from the World Bank, first tranche of US$ 400 Million (Rs. 1650 crore) has already become effective in December 2006. Proposal for availing second tranche of US$ 600 Million (Rs. 2500 crore) during 2007 is under consideration.

The PGCIL has proposed for ADB funding of the National Grid Development Programme (the Investment Programme). The total programme cost is estimated at US $ 2,577 million out of which ADB funding is envisaged to be US $ 1 billion. The ADB has proposed to provide a multi-tranche sovereign guaranteed loan of US $ 800 million and non-sovereign loan of US $ 200 million for the following two components under the Investment Program - Upgradation of Transmission capacity from Uttarakhand (Component 1, estimated cost- US $ 383 million) and 800 kV High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Northeastern-Northern/Western inter-connector (Component II, estimated cost - US$ 2,194 million). The sovereign guaranteed loan (US $ 800 million) will be under the Multi-Tranche Financing Facility (MFF) of ADB whereby the Borrower tranches its requirements and the individual loans are provided by ADB to finance the subprojects as and when they are ready for financing and a related request is made through a Periodic Financing Request (PFR) under the umbrella Framework Financing Agreement (FFA).

Review of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*293. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a review mission, consisting of independent experts. reviewed the progress of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in the first half of 2006;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted in finding out the progress of SSA;

(d) whether any complaints about implementation of SSA have been received from States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE-DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The third Joint Review Mission (JRM) for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), reviewed the programme on the basis of visits to ten States in January, 2006.

The Mission's findings included an assessment that the programme is on track, that it has successfully reduced the number of children who were out of school by enhancing enrolment and retention and also that meaningful steps have been undertaken for improvement of quality of elementary education.

The Mission emphasized continued focus on education of girls, children from educationally and socially disadvantaged sections of society and children with special needs; review teacher training programmes and; strengthen internal audit mechanisms. SSA implementation has addressed these issues, subsequently.

(d) and (e) Recently, the School Education Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that an amount of Rs.14,98,03,378/- under District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)/Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) had been diverted to unauthorized bank accounts by the Assistant Accounts Officer of the State Project Office. The State Government has taken strict action in instituting a judicial enquiry; undertaking investigation by the State CID and the suspension of three accounts officials alongwith transfer of another three accounts personnel from the State Project Office. The Government of India has asked the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to carry out a special audit of accounts pertaining to the DPEP and SSA for the period 2000-01 till date in Andhra Pradesh.

Criteria for deemed universities

†*294. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for obtaining the status of deemed university;

(b) the number of autonomous colleges in the country and how many of them fulfil the criteria to obtain the status of deemed university;

(c) whether the proposal to give the status of deemed university to the autonomous college of Chhindwara is under consideration; and

(d) by when the decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Central Government is empowered by the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 to notify an institution of higher- education, other than a University, as Deemed to be a University, on the advice of the UGC. The UGC has laid down guidelines for consideration of proposals for declaring an

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.